Application No.: 09/507,484

Amendment Date: May 20, 2004

Reply to office action of February 25, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the
application.

CLAIMS

1 (Currently amended) A method for operating a computer to display historical information
   about hyperlinks shown on web pages, the method comprising the following operations
   performed by the computer:

   responsive to receiving user instructions to download a web page, commencing
   downloading of the web page;

   identifying any hyperlinks present in the web page;

   for each identified hyperlink, analyzing the hyperlink by performing steps comprising:

   determining whether one or more users in a predefined access group have previously

   selected the identified hyperlink to download underlying data represented by the

   hyperlink;

   only if one or more users in the predefined access group have previously selected the

   hyperlink, consulting a database to identify characteristics of the underlying data

   obtained from previous selections of the hyperlink by users in the access group;

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referencing the identified characteristics against a presentation table to derive

enhanced presentation attributes appropriate to the hyperlink; ~~and~~

displaying the downloaded web page, including presenting each hyperlink with its

derived enhanced presentation attributes; and

responsive to the user selecting a hyperlink to download underlying data represented by

the hyperlink, the computer downloading the underlying data represented by the

hyperlink, and recording predetermined characteristics of the underlying data in the

database.

2 (Original) The method of claim 1, the predefined access group having a single member.

3 (Original) The method of claim 1, the predefined access group having multiple members,

where the database is accessible to all members.

4 (Original) The method of claim 1, the operations further including:

prior to analyzing the hyperlink, selecting the database from multiple available databases.

5 (Original) The method of claim 1, the operations of presenting each hyperlink with its derived

enhanced presentation attributes including at least one of the following:

displaying text, displaying graphics, generating sound, providing tactile output.

6 (Original) The method of claim 1, where the displaying operation comprises:

initially displaying the web page such that hyperlinks are free from enhanced presentation

attributes;

the computer awaiting predetermined user input including direction of a cursor proximate

any of the displayed hyperlinks; and

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responsive to the predetermined user input occurring for a hyperlink, presenting the

hyperlink with its derived enhanced presentation attributes.

7 (Original) The method of claim 6, the predetermined user input additionally including

depressing of one or more buttons on a computer mouse while the cursor is proximate the

hyperlink.

8 (Currently Amended) A method for operating a computer to display historical information

about hyperlinks shown on web pages, the method comprising the following operations

performed by the computer:

    responsive to receiving user instructions to download a web page, commencing

        downloading of the web page;

    identifying any hyperlinks present in the web page;

    for each identified hyperlink, analyzing the hyperlink by performing steps comprising:

        determining whether one or more users in a predefined access group have previously

        selected the identified hyperlink to download underlying data represented by the

        hyperlink;

        only if one or more users in the predefined access group have previously selected the

        hyperlink, consulting a database to identify characteristics of the underlying data

        obtained from previous selections of the hyperlink by users in the access group;

        referencing the identified characteristics against a presentation table to derive

        enhanced presentation attributes appropriate to the hyperlink;

    displaying the downloaded web page, including presenting each hyperlink with its

        derived enhanced presentation attributes;

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responsive to the user selecting a hyperlink to download underlying data represented by

the hyperlink:

the computer soliciting user specification of one or more of the following in

association with the underlying data:

user rating of the underlying data;

one or more representative multimedia symbols of one or more of the

following types: graphics images, sounds, videos, animations, tactile

sensations; and

the computer recording the user specification in the database in association with

the hyperlink.

9   (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

sensing when the predetermined user input is absent, and then presenting the hyperlink

free from its enhanced presentation attributes.

10 (Cancelled)

11 (Original) The method of claim 1, where the characteristics of the underlying data obtained

from previous selections include one or more of the following:

size of the underlying data;

dates of one or more previous selections of the hyperlink;

times of one or more previous selections of the hyperlink;

a length of time to download the underlying data;

one or more multimedia representative symbols, including one or more of the following:

graphics, sound, animation, video;

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number of previous selections of the hyperlink;

user ratings of the underlying data;

whether the underlying data constitutes a web site that is under construction;

whether the hyperlink represents an expired link;

whether the user has bookmarked the underlying data;

any errors occurring during previous selections of the hyperlink.

12 (Original) The method of claim 1, the enhanced presentation attributes including one or more
of the following: changes in text font, changes in text color, changes in text underlining,
addition of specialty characters, addition of images.

13 (Currently amended) A method for operating a computer to display historical information
about hyperlinks shown on web pages, the method comprising the following operations
performed by the computer:

responsive to receiving user instructions to download a web page, commencing
downloading of the web page;

identifying any hyperlinks present in the web page;

for each identified hyperlink, analyzing the hyperlink by performing steps comprising:

determining whether one or more users in a predefined access group have previously
selected the identified hyperlink to download underlying data represented by the
hyperlink;

only if one or more users in the predefined access group have previously selected the
hyperlink, consulting a database to identify characteristics of the underlying data
obtained from previous selections of the hyperlink by users in the access group;

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referencing the identified characteristics against a presentation table to derive

enhanced presentation attributes appropriate to the hyperlink;

displaying the downloaded web page, including presenting each hyperlink with its

derived enhanced presentation attributes;

determining whether the computer has received predetermined user input including

direction of a cursor proximate a hyperlink; and

where performance of the analyzing operation for each hyperlink is conditioned upon

receipt of the predetermined user input for that hyperlink.

14 (Currently amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-

readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method for

operating a computer to display historical information about hyperlinks shown on web

pages, the method comprising the following operations performed by the computer:

responsive to receiving user instructions to download a web page, commencing

downloading of the web page;

identifying any hyperlinks present in the web page;

for each identified hyperlink, analyzing the hyperlink by performing steps comprising:

determining whether one or more users in a predefined access group have previously

selected the identified hyperlink to download underlying data represented by the

hyperlink;

only if one or more users in the predefined access group have previously selected the

hyperlink, consulting a database to identify characteristics of the underlying data

obtained from previous selections of the hyperlink by users in the access group;

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referencing the identified characteristics against a presentation table to derive

enhanced presentation attributes appropriate to the hyperlink; ~~and~~

displaying the downloaded web page, including presenting each hyperlink with its

derived enhanced presentation attributes; <u>and</u>

<u>responsive to the user selecting a hyperlink to download underlying data represented by</u>

<u>the hyperlink, the computer downloading the underlying data represented by the</u>

<u>hyperlink, and recording predetermined characteristics of the underlying data in the</u>

<u>database.</u>

15 (Original) The medium of claim 14, the predefined access group having a single member.

16 (Original) The medium of claim 14, the predefined access group having multiple members,

where the database is accessible to all members.

17 (Original) The medium of claim 14, the operations further including:

prior to analyzing the hyperlink, selecting the database from multiple available databases.

18 (Original) The medium of claim 14, the operations of presenting each hyperlink with its

derived enhanced presentation attributes including at least one of the following:

displaying text, displaying graphics, generating sound, providing tactile output.

19 (Original) The medium of claim 14, where the displaying operation comprises:

initially displaying the web page such that hyperlinks are free from enhanced presentation

attributes;

the computer awaiting predetermined user input including direction of a cursor proximate

any of the displayed hyperlinks; and

responsive to the predetermined user input occurring for a hyperlink, presenting the

hyperlink with its derived enhanced presentation attributes.

20 (Original) The medium of claim 19, the predetermined user input additionally including

depressing of one or more buttons on a computer mouse while the cursor is proximate the

hyperlink.

21 (Currently amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-

readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method for

operating a computer to display historical information about hyperlinks shown on web

pages, the method comprising the following operations performed by the computer:

   responsive to receiving user instructions to download a web page, commencing

      downloading of the web page;

   identifying any hyperlinks present in the web page;

   for each identified hyperlink, analyzing the hyperlink by performing steps comprising:

      determining whether one or more users in a predefined access group have previously

         selected the identified hyperlink to download underlying data represented by the

         hyperlink;

      only if one or more users in the predefined access group have previously selected the

         hyperlink, consulting a database to identify characteristics of the underlying data

         obtained from previous selections of the hyperlink by users in the access group;

      referencing the identified characteristics against a presentation table to derive

         enhanced presentation attributes appropriate to the hyperlink; and

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displaying the downloaded web page, including presenting each hyperlink with its

derived enhanced presentation attributes;

responsive to the user selecting a hyperlink to download underlying data represented by

the hyperlink:

the computer soliciting user specification of one or more of the following in

association with the underlying data:

user rating of the underlying data;

one or more representative multimedia symbols of one or more of the following

types: graphics images, sounds, videos, animations, tactile sensations; and

the computer recording the user specification in the database in association with the

hyperlink.

22 (Original) The medium of claim 19, further comprising:

sensing when the predetermined user input is absent, and then presenting the hyperlink

free from its enhanced presentation attributes.

23 (Cancelled)

24 (Original) The medium of claim 14, where the characteristics of the underlying data obtained

from previous selections include one or more of the following:

size of the underlying data;

dates of one or more previous selections of the hyperlink;

times of one or more previous selections of the hyperlink;

a length of time to download the underlying data;

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one or more multimedia representative symbols, including one or more of the following:

graphics, sound, animation, video;

number of previous selections of the hyperlink;

user ratings of the underlying data;

whether the underlying data constitutes a web site that is under construction;

whether the hyperlink represents an expired link;

whether the user has bookmarked the underlying data;

any errors occurring during previous selections of the hyperlink.

25 (Original) The medium of claim 14, the enhanced presentation attributes including one or

more of the following: changes in text font, changes in text color, changes in text

underlining, addition of specialty characters, images.

26 (Currently amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-

readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method for

operating a computer to display historical information about hyperlinks shown on web

pages, the method comprising the following operations performed by the computer:

responsive to receiving user instructions to download a web page, commencing

downloading of the web page;

identifying any hyperlinks present in the web page;

for each identified hyperlink, analyzing the hyperlink by performing steps comprising:

determining whether one or more users in a predefined access group have previously

selected the identified hyperlink to download underlying data represented by the

hyperlink;

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only if one or more users in the predefined access group have previously selected the hyperlink, consulting a database to identify characteristics of the underlying data obtained from previous selections of the hyperlink by users in the access group; referencing the identified characteristics against a presentation table to derive enhanced presentation attributes appropriate to the hyperlink;

displaying the downloaded web page, including presenting each hyperlink with its derived enhanced presentation attributes;

determining whether the computer has received predetermined user input including direction of a cursor proximate a hyperlink; and

where performance of the analyzing operation for each hyperlink is conditioned upon receipt of the predetermined user input for that hyperlink.

27 (Currently amended) An information system, comprising:

a storage including a database; and

an computer, coupled to the storage and configured to display historical information about hyperlinks shown on web pages by performing operations comprising:

responsive to receiving user instructions to download a web page, commencing downloading of the web page;

identifying any hyperlinks present in the web page;

for each identified hyperlink, analyzing the hyperlink by performing steps comprising:

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determining whether one or more users in a predefined access group have

previously selected the identified hyperlink to download underlying data

represented by the hyperlink;

only if one or more users in the predefined access group have previously selected

the hyperlink, consulting a database to identify characteristics of the underlying

data obtained from previous selections of the hyperlink by users in the access

group;

referencing the identified characteristics against a presentation table to derive

enhanced presentation attributes appropriate to the hyperlink; and

displaying the downloaded web page, including presenting each hyperlink with its

derived enhanced presentation attributes; and

responsive to the user selecting a hyperlink to download underlying data represented

by the hyperlink, the computer downloading the underlying data represented by the

hyperlink, and recording predetermined characteristics of the underlying data in the

database.

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